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Evil Flowers

http://www.evilflowers.com

CREAK
HA—
YOU JUST FINISHED, HEATHER?
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO WRAP THINGS UP, BUT THEN, THE HEAD MAID FOUND OUT TH T I DIDN'T CLE IN THE FIRE PIT THOUGH
GEEZ YOU KNOW, HOW THE HEAD MAID IS ALWAYS PRECISE ABOUT THESE THINGS

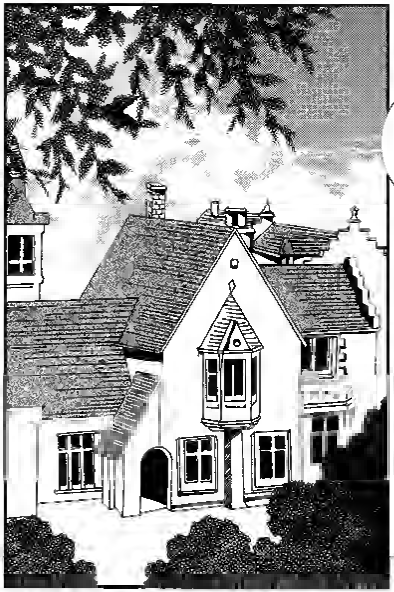
HUH?
MARY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE MY BRUSH IS?
OH, RIGHT. I MUST'VE USED IT AND FORGOTTEN TO PUT IT BACK
CHECK MY DRAWER
I TOLD YOU TO PUT IT BACK AFTER YOU USE IT
YOU ALWAYS PUT IT IN YOUR

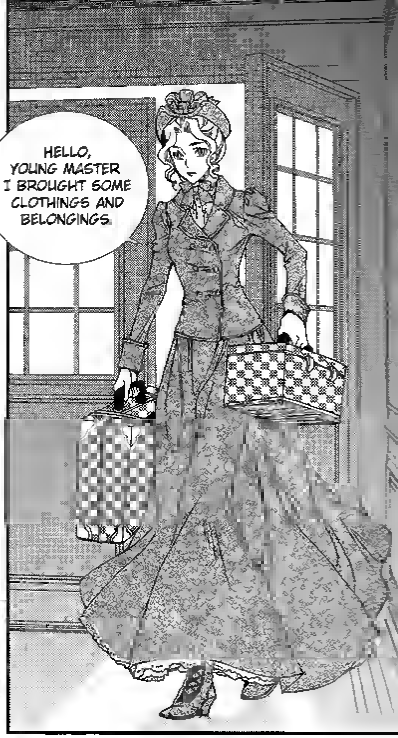
WHAT, IS THIS A RIBBON..?
SOFT SILK AND LACES... AND ISN'T THAT CENTER PIECE MADE OF CRYSTAL?
G...GIVE IT BACK!
IT'S MINE!! SOMEONE GAVE IT TO ME!!

A PRESENT? YOU KNOW RELATIONSHIPS ARE FORBIDDEN IN THE MANSION RIGHT?
IF YOU GUYS ARE SO CLOSE THAT YOU'RE TRADING THINGS LIKE THIS, I THINK WE OUGHT TO TELL THE HEAD MAID.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!! L-LADY LEONARA GAVE IT TO ME.
SO PLEASE DON'T TELL THE HEAD MAID!!
LADY LEONARA?
Y-YEAH.
WHY WOULD SHE GIVE IT TO YOU? SHE DIDN'T JUST HAND IT TO YOU, DID SHE?
SHE GAVE IT OUT OF GOOD WILL...
AND ALSO, SHE WAS CURIOUS...

THE INCIDENT BETWEEN LADY MARGARET AND GREGORY...
I TOLD HER ABOUT IT
YOU TOLD HER EVERY-THING?!
EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT ANYWAY... AND LADY LEONARA'S GOING TO BE THE LADY OF THIS HOUSE SOMEDAY
—BACK THEN,
MASTER ADRIAN GAVE US SO MANY WARNINGS AND YET...
I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS STRANGE— WHEN GREG LEFT THE SCHOOL
IF IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH LADY LEONARA

YOU'LL DELIVER THE ITEMS TO MASTER ADRIAN?
WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER AFTER ALL YOUR NEGLIGENCE?
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO DO DOWNTOWN.
I BEG OF YOU... I'LL MAKE SURE TO CLEAN THE FIRE PIT NEXT TIME...
...ALL RIGHT I'LL NOTIFY THE HORSEMAN.
DON'T SHOW ANY FRIVOLOUS BEHAVIOR AND DELIVER IT TO HIM WITHOUT FAIL.




HELLO,
YOUNG MASTER
I BROUGHT SOME
CLOTHINGS AND
BELONGINGS.

ALL RIGHT.
GOOD WORK.

...UM...

HESITATES
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER BUSINESS?
PLEASE PARDON MY IMPUDENCE, BUT I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU
SOMETHING?
THIS IS LADY LEONARA'S RIBBON, BUT...

WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS? I TOLD YOU NOT TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION FROM GUESTS
IT IS NOT I WHO IS IN POSSESSION OF THIS RIBBON BUT MARY.
WHEN LADY LEONARA WAS STAYING AT THE MANSION, SHE GAVE IT TO MARY, WHO WAS SERVING HER AT THE TIME, AS A GIFT. BUT BECAUSE LADY LEONARA WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE INCIDENT,
MARY FORGOT ABOUT YOUNG MASTER'S STRICT ORDERS
AND TOLD HER THE NEWS ABOUT LADY MARGARET AND GREGORY.

I APOLOGIZE.
AH, AND ALSO...
WHAT IS IT?
THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED WHEN LADY BETH WAS STAYING AT THE MANSION .
BEFORE WE DISCOVERED LADY BETH IN THE NORTH TOWER WHEN SHE LOST HER WAY, I WITNESSED LADY LEONARA LEAVE THE SERVANT'S PASSAGE OF THE NORTH TOWER.
LADY LEONARA
IS SOMEONE WHO WOULD NEVER USE THE SERVANT'S PASSAGE.

SO, HAVE YOU DECIDED, ADRIAN?
PERHAPS YOU HAVE STARTED TO LEAN TOWARDS BETH?
...
WILL YOU GIVE A WORD OF YOUR OPINION TO THE NEWSPAPER CLUB ABOUT THE ESTELLE ELECTION? YOUR SUPPORT WILL DEFINITELY HAVE A HUGE EFFECT ON THE ELECTION.
PERSONALLY, I WOULD SUPPORT MISS ROSE, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I SUPPOSE A SCHOOL ELECTION SEEMS LIKE CHILD'S PLAY AND DOESN'T INTEREST YOU.
IF IT'S ELIZABETH MARCH,
I'M INTERESTED.
WHO KNOWS.
MISS BETH?!
THIS IS A SCOOP!
WELCOME, ADRIAN.

I'M NOT BEING A BOTHER, AM I?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY TO THE OFFICE FOR ME.
A BOTHER?! ADRIAN,

YOU NEVER HAD INTEREST IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND YOU'D AVOID THE OFFICE, SAYING IT'S A FORMAL PLACE...
DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
WELL... I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS.
I'M JUST HAPPY THAT YOU CAME

TELL ME THE TRUTH.
DID THE PRINCIPAL FIND OUT ABOUT THE INCIDENT BETWEEN GREG AND LADY MARGARET BECAUSE OF YOU?
I WAS SIMPLY FOLLOWING THROUGH THE OBLIGATIONS OF MY JOB. I PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE STUDENTS.
I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH ACTS THAT MAY BRING DOUBT TO THE CONDUCT OF OUR MENTORS OR TARNISH THE HONOR OF THE SCHOOL.

MORE-OVER,
IT'S NOT MY FAULT THAT MISS MARGARET WAS UNRULY ENOUGH TO ABANDON HER FAMILY AND RUN OFF WITH A PUPIL.
TAP TAP
LADY LEONARA!!
THE NEWS-PAPER CLUB IS WRITING AN ARTICLE THAT SAYS ADRIAN IS SUPPORTING BETH.

WILL YOU JUST LET THIS NEWS GO PUBLIC?
PLEASE TAKE ACTION—!!
E
EXCUSE ME, I DID NOT REALIZE THAT YOU WERE TOGETHER.
IF THE NEWSPAPER CLUB IS MAKING SUCH FALSE RUMORS, THEN OF COURSE, THEY WILL NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.
ADRIAN IS NOT INTERESTED ENOUGH TO SAY SUCH THINGS, SO CALM DOWN, MISS ALICEN.

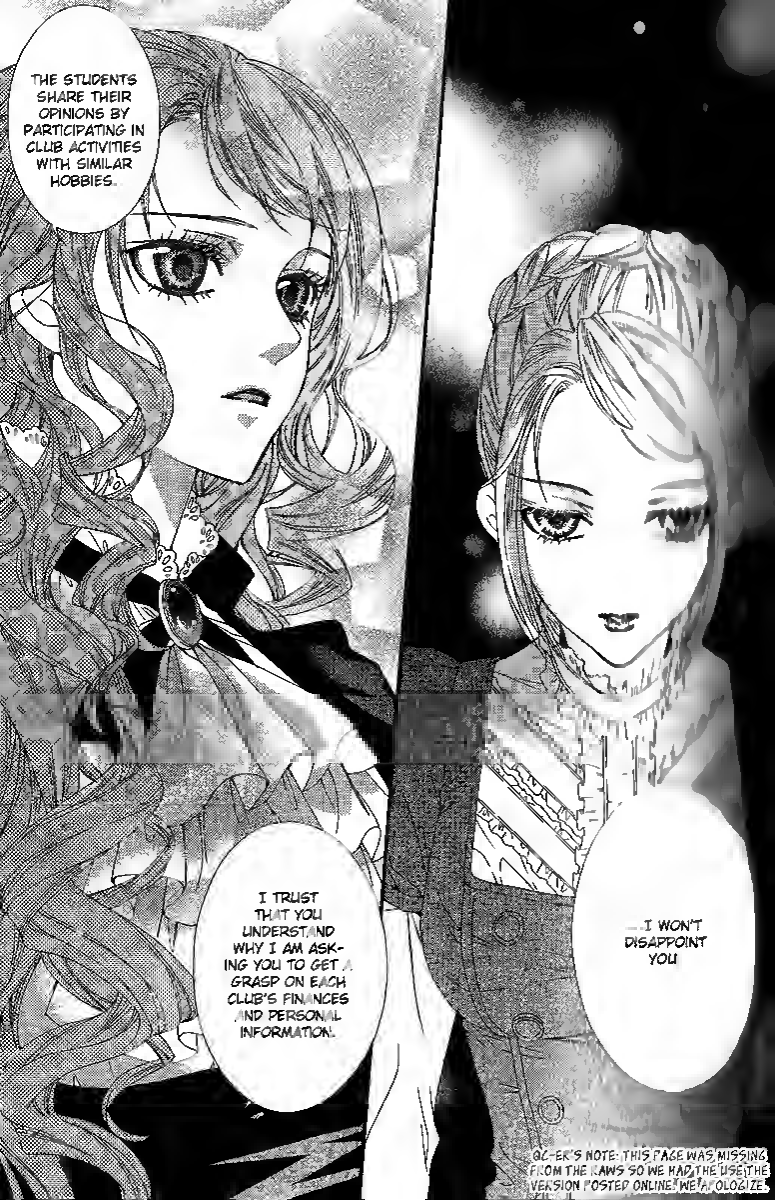
IT'S NOT A FALSE RUMOR
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M SUPPORTING BETH IN THE ELECTION, JUST AS YOU SAY.
I FINALLY GAINED INTEREST

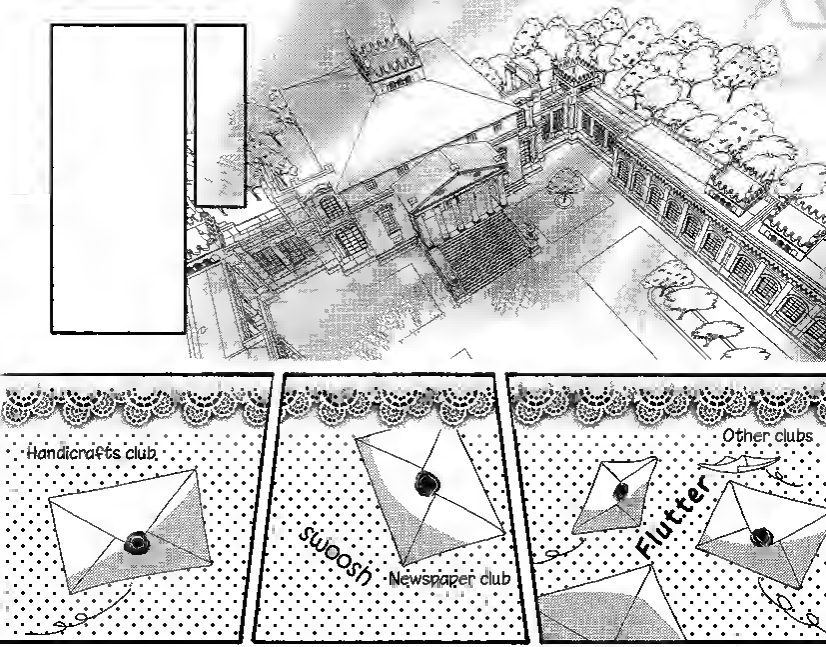
IT HAPPENED JUST THIRTY MINUTES AGO AND IT'S ALREADY REACHED THE STUDENT COUNCIL? YOUR INFORMATION COMES FASTER THAN I THOUGHT.
OH, YOU WERE ALSO AN ESTELLA, WEREN'T YOU? SADLY MY VOTE HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN
...
THERE'S A SAYING THAT GOES LIKE THIS, ADRIAN,
"THE PEOPLE WHO CAST THE VOTES DON'T DECIDE AN ELECTION. THE PEOPLE WHO COUNT THE VOTES DO."

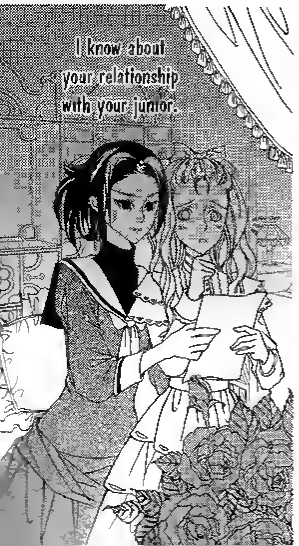
WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON, ADRIAN?
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION WAS A RESULT OF THE ARISTOCRATS AND ROYALTY IGNORING THE COMMON CLASS
AS SOMEONE BORN AND RAISED AS AN ARISTOCRAT, I HEAD TOWARDS THE PERSON WHO SEEMS TO DIFFER FROM THOSE WHO ARE ORDINARY

Click
MISS ALICEN,
DIDN'T YOU HAVE MORE BUSINESS?
AH.. YES, LADY LEONARA
I'VE INVESTIGATED THE CLUBS' BUDGETS AND THE PRIVATE LIVES OF THEIR LEADERS
BUT THE DATA ON THE OPIUM CLUB HADN'T BEEN ORGANIZED. I COULDN'T FIND ANY INSIDE INFORMATION.
THE OPIUM CLUB HAS ALWAYS BEEN A TROUBLE.

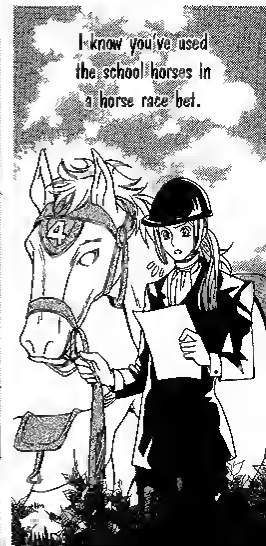
Note: Opium was not outlawed in England at the time during which this story takes place.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opium#Regulation_in_Britain_and_the_United_States


THE STUDENTS SHARE THEIR OPINIONS BY PARTICIPATING IN CLUB ACTIVITIES WITH SIMILAR HOBBIES.
I TRUST THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I AM ASKING YOU TO GET A GRASP ON EACH CLUB'S FINANCES AND PERSONAL INFORMATION.
...I WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU
QC-ER'S NOTE: THIS PAGE WAS MISSING FROM THE RAWS SO WE HAD TO USE THE VERSION POSTED ONLINE. WE APOLOGIZE.


Handicrafts club
swoosh
Newspaper club
Other clubs
Flutter


I know about your relationship with your junior.

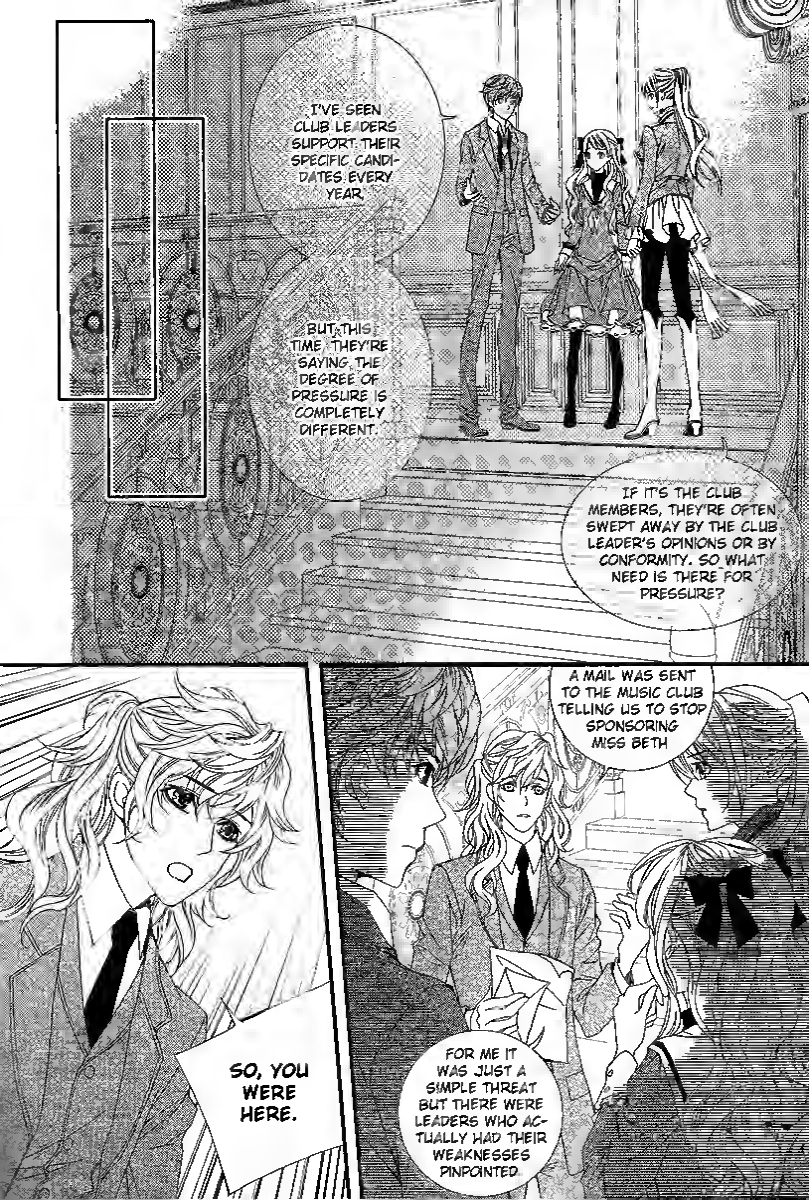
I know you're stalking under the pretext of gathering information.


I know you've used the school horses in a horse race bet.

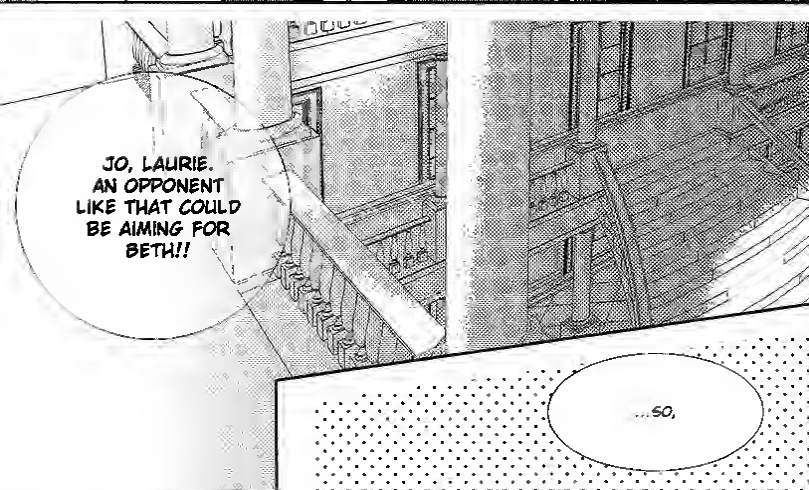
AHH
If you want me to keep your secret...
AH
AH
THE GLUE IS READY
POSTERS ARE READY.
WHY DON'T WE START GLUING, THEN
GLUE

PUBLICITY IS IMPORTANT IN THIS AGE.
I'LL SHOW OFF MY ELEGANCE THROUGH THESE POSTERS.
VOTE
VOTE for ROSE
SFX BABAM
A MOUSTACHE, SERIOUSLY!!
SLAP
SLAP
THEY ONLY SCRIBBLED OVER MY FACE.
WHAT'S THIS—!!

SMACK
SMACK
BUT IT'D BE SUCH A WASTE IF WE ONLY PUT UP ONE POSTER
GREAT SCENERY...
WAS IT A POSTER COMPETITION THAT YOU WANTED WHEN YOU CHALLENGED US?
IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL WALL-PAPERING?


I'VE SEEN CLUB LEADERS SUPPORT THEIR SPECIFIC CANDIDATES EVERY YEAR.
BUT, THIS TIME, THEY'RE SAYING THE DEGREE OF PRESSURE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
IF IT'S THE CLUB MEMBERS, THEY'RE OFTEN SWEPT AWAY BY THE CLUB LEADER'S OPINIONS OR BY CONFORMITY. SO WHAT NEED IS THERE FOR PRESSURE?
A MAIL WAS SENT TO THE MUSIC CLUB TELLING US TO STOP SPONSORING MISS BETH
FOR ME IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE THREAT BUT THERE WERE LEADERS WHO ACTUALLY HAD THEIR WEAKNESSES PINPOINTED
SO, YOU WERE HERE.

I THINK WE'LL ALSO NEED A COUNTER-MEASURE FOR THE NEGATIVE RUMORS.
"FINDING THE WEAKNESSES TO THREATEN..."
IT CERTAINLY WOULD ASSURE A SHORT TERM EFFECT ON THE OTHERS, BUT IT HAS A SIDE EFFECT OF PROVOKING ANTAGONISM.


JO, LAURIE. AN OPPONENT LIKE THAT COULD BE AIMING FOR BETH!!
...SO,

NOW YOU'RE SAYING YOU WANT TO GO ON A CAMPAIGN WITH ME. I GUESS MY POPULARITY WAS JUST TOO GOOD TO LOSE
Huh
AS ESTELLAS, RATHER THAN HAVING OUR TEETH BARED AT EACH OTHER,
WOULDN'T IT GIVE THE STUDENTS MORE FAITH IF WE ACKNOWLEDGED EACH OTHER AND SHOWED THEM A BATTLE OF GOODWILL?
WE'RE SAYING WE ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS AN ESTELLA
WHETHER YOU ACKNOWLEDGE ME OR NOT,
Ha
WHAT ABOUT THAT?

BUT IF THAT'S WHAT THE STUDENTS WANT TO SEE, I'LL DO IT.
THERE ARE MANY CLUBS IN FRANCIS ACADEMY, SO IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT THEM ALL
HMPF!
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T KNOW? THERE WERE SEVERAL CLUB LEADERS THAT I MET FOR THE FIRST TIME AT MY TEA PARTY.
WHY DON'T WE START, ROSE, BETH.

SO THE THREE ESTELLAS GATHER
SHOW ME YOUR SKILLS.
I ONLY HOPE THAT YOU WON'T DISAPPOINT HER, LADIES—

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A CLUB IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
ALICEN, WHICH CLUB ARE WE GOING TO?
THIS WAY IS. .

LEAVE THIS TO ME, ROSE

HERE, THIS IS IT.
WHAT CLUB IS THIS?
WHY DON'T YOU FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF?

NOW, GO IN.
DON'T PUSH ME.
PUSH
HAVING ANYONE HELP WOULD BE CHEATING.
SFX: TAP

WHAT IS THIS.
Click
STEP

WELCOME, MISS.
ALL THE MEMBERS ARE GATHERED. I GUESS YOU'RE HAVING A PARTY.
WELL... YES. AND YOU ARE?
I'M BETH MARCH. AN ESTELLE NOMINEE, AND AN ESTELLA
Keh

UM... I'VE COME TO SAY HELLO BEFORE THE ESTELLE ELECTION
WHAT CLUB IS THIS?
FOR AN ESTELLA TO HAVE KINDLY COME OVER FOR A VISIT, OUR CLUB MUST'VE BEEN QUITE POPULAR LATELY
THE DEEP BROWN SMOKE WAFTING IN THE DARK LIGHT
A SWEET SCENT LIKE BISCUITS IN THE AIR
THIS PLACE IS

Volume 9 - END -

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